

Quote from Robert Storz, retired Union Pacific employee

Can someone tell me which year we first put men on the moon? The year was 1969. We were able to accomplish that feat because of a national commitment made by then-president John F. Kennedy to put a man on the moon before 1970. By national commitment, we mean all the capabilities the United States could muster; all the interstate highway's capacity, all the telephone capabilities, all the available manpower, all the money that could be diverted were directed to one common goal... putting men on the moon by 1970. And, of course, we did it in 1969.

Now we need to go back to May 10, 1869. It was on that date that the Transcontinental Railroad became a reality! The Union Pacific Railroad beginning in Omaha, Nebraska met the Central Pacific Railroad coming out of Sacramento, California at a place called Promontory Summit, Utah fulfilling a long-held national commitment. All the resources the United States could gather; all the available manpower, manufacturing capabilities, timber, and (of course) money was directed to the satisfaction of the national commitment of completing the Transcontinental Railroad. This endeavor was the 1800's equivalent to the United States putting a man on the moon 100 years later.

See if you can make anything of that! It comes verbatim from the tour script that he wrote up for me.